

### Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Previously presented): An isolated oligonucleotide which encodes a synthetic suppressor tRNA comprising:

- A) a human tRNA structural gene sequence comprising no more than twenty 3' flanking residues and no 5' flanking residues, said sequence encoding an anticodon region for pairing with mRNA;
- B) an anticodon sequence contained within said anticodon region which has been modified to recognize a codon different from that which is originally recognized;

wherein said oligonucleotide has a total length of less than 150 nucleotides.

Claim 2 (Original): A synthetic suppressor tRNA molecule encoded by the oligonucleotide of claim 1.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said anticodon region recognizes a nonsense mutation selected from the group consisting of: amber (UAG), ochre (UAA) and opal (UGA).

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide encodes said synthetic suppressor tRNA in tandem.

Claim 5 (Original): The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said tRNA structural gene sequence encodes a serine tRNA.

Claim 6 (Original): The oligonucleotide sequence of claim 1 wherein said tRNA structural gene sequence encodes an arginine tRNA.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): An oligonucleotide which encodes a synthetic suppressor tRNA comprising:

- A) a human tRNA structural gene sequence comprising no more than twenty 3' flanking residues and no 5' flanking residues, said sequence encoding an anticodon region for pairing with mRNA;
- B) an anticodon sequence contained within said anticodon region which has been modified to recognize a codon different from that which is originally recognized;

wherein said oligonucleotide has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-10 and wherein said oligonucleotide has a total length of less than 150 nucleotides.

Claims 8-13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A nucleotide vector comprising the oligonucleotide of claim 1.

Claim 15 (Original): The nucleotide vector of claim 14 wherein said vector is a viral vector.

Claim 16 (Original): The vector of claim 14 wherein said vector is a viral vector selected from the group consisting of:

a retroviral, adenoviral, adeno-associated, Herpes simplex virus and Herpes simplex viral vector.

Claim 17 (Original): The vector of claim 14 wherein said vector is a Herpes virus vector.

Claim 18 (Original): The vector of claim 14 wherein said vector is a Herpes virus mini amplicon vector comprising:

an Epstein-Barr virus ori P and EBNA-1 sequence to maintain the plasmid episomally, a hygromycin resistance gene, an HSV-1 lytic replication origin (ori S), and a HSV-1 terminal packaging signal.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A transformed host cell comprising the oligonucleotide of claim 1.

Claim 21 (Original): A transformed host cell comprising the synthetic suppressor tRNA molecule of claim 2.

Claim 22-39 (Cancelled).